

REMARKS

Claims 1-45 are pending in the application. The Examiner objects to claims 2, 6, 7, 9, 10, 14, 21, 22, 24, 25, 29, 30, 36-40, 44 and 45 as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten to overcome the Examiner's objections. Claims 12, 13, 27, 28, 42 and 43 stand allowed. Claims 1, 3-5, 8, 10, 11, 16-20, 23, 26, 31-35, 40 and 41 stand rejected. The Examiner's objections and rejections are addressed below in substantially the same order as in the office action.

REJECTIONS OF CLAIMS

Applicant has (i) rewritten independent claim 1 to include the recitation of claim 14, (ii) rewritten independent claim 16 to include the recitation of claim 29, and (iii) rewritten independent claim 31 to include the recitation of claim 44. Applicant believes that all these claims, and the claims that depend therefrom, are in condition for allowance. Claims 14, 29 and 44 have been cancelled.

The following objected-to claims have also been rewritten in independent form: 6, 15, 21, 30, 36, and 45. The Examiner did not state the status of claim 15. However, Applicant observes that Claim 15 has the same recitation of objected to claims 30 and 45. Thus, Applicant believes that Claim 15 is allowable as rewritten in independent form.

CONCLUSION

For all the foregoing reasons, Applicant submits that the application is in a condition for allowance. The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge the fee of \$120.00 for a one month extension of time d) to Deposit Account No. **02-0429 (414-35587-USCP)** maintained by Baker Hughes Incorporated. The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. **02-0429 (414-35587-USCP)**.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: December 26, 2006

/Chandran D. Kumar/
Chandran D. Kumar, Reg. No.: 48,679
Madan, Mossman & Sriram, P.C.
2603 Augusta, Suite 700
Houston, Texas 77057
Telephone: (713) 266-1130
Facsimile: (713) 266-8510

ATTORNEY FOR APPLICANTS